

the Daily Challenge in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Philip and other organizers had the vision to develop an annual arts performance week that would bring a sharper focus on the depth and scope of this burgeoning theatre movement. They hope to bring the natural beauty of the Caribbean islands and the rich variety of cultures in the Caribbean islands to the theatre audience.

The event was developed more than two months ago with just one event. Caribbean Theatre Week developed a momentum of its own, resulting in a week of culture-driven events and activities. WLIB Radio and the Daily Challenge have convened an impressive gathering of Caribbean playwrights, actors, producers, writers, and performance artists—representing the English, French and Spanish Caribbean—to help celebrate the week-long series of events. Such a fascinating spectrum of the arts and theater during Caribbean Theatre Week will help the residents of New York deepen their appreciation for the vitality of the Caribbean island traditions.

The organizers of the event have created a multi-dimensional showcase of Caribbean culture. Caribbean Theatre Week will showcase a Children's Storytelling Festival, Oral Folk Tradition, a Poetry Festival and poetry reading, a celebration of Caribbean dance, a symposium examining the state of Caribbean theater in New York, and Caribbean Street Theatre. The event will conclude with the grand finale, the New York Premiere of "Jean and Dinah," performed by the Lord Street Theatre Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

As we approach the new millennium, the ties that bind nations globally are becoming more apparent. Events such as Caribbean Theatre Week serve as the perfect vehicle to understand and embrace the various cultures of the world. I applaud Mr. Dawad Philip, WLIB Radio and other organizers of Caribbean Theatre Week for celebrating the beauty, culture, warmth, and diversity of the Islands and its people. I also salute the artists and performers; their work exemplifies the wide range of talent in the Caribbean community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CDR.
GEORGE W. HOOVER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Commander George W. Hoover, who passed away last month and now lays at rest in Arlington National Cemetery. Commander Hoover was a friend to me, a friend of America, and one of the greatest intellects the country will ever produce.

It is one thing to briefly summarize his life: born April 24, 1915, in New Kensington, Pennsylvania; joined the Navy in 1934 and served a distinguished career as an aviator and an engineer; married, father of two children; consultant to numerous government agencies and leading engineering and aviation firms; and responsible for several innovations critical to the progress of aviation engineering and instrumentation. I want to focus on a couple of things that were particularly meaningful to me.

First, in 1945, Commander Hoover was designated Navy Helicopter Pilot Number 10.

Today as we take for granted the availability of helicopters for military and civilian use, Commander Hoover ranks among the pioneers of aviation as one of America's very first helicopter pilots.

Second, Commander Hoover was responsible for bringing the Martin Baker Ejection Seat from Great Britain into the United States. On my 300th air mission in Vietnam, May 10, 1972, my RIO Bill Driscoll and I rode the descendants of the Martin Baker seat to safety upon the explosion of my F-4 Phantom. Thanks to Commander Hoover, the availability of this seat, and the improvements he and others made to it, ensured that a pilot could eject safely from a disabled airplane, even from an altitude of zero, on the carrier deck.

No remarks I make can possibly pay appropriate tribute to Commander Hoover's remarkable career. It should be noted that in 1999, Commander Hoover will be nominated for induction into the National Museum of Naval Aviation "Hall of Honor" at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida—the cradle of all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviators, and the place where a worthy memory of his many accomplishments can be kept.

His memory will also be kept by his widow, Lona, and his two children. The life of a Navy wife is hard. Her husband is sent on deployments for months at a time. For the decades that Commander Hoover served his country in the Navy, I want it to be recognized that his wife Lona served America and the cause of freedom with vigor and distinction just the same.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States now pay tribute to Commander George W. Hoover, and to his widow Lona and his family. God bless them for their service to America and to one another.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 30th, Tuesday, March 31st, and early Wednesday, April 1st, I was unable to be present in Washington, D.C. due to other business of a personal and family nature and therefore missed several recorded votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted:

"No" on rollcall number 81: passage of H.R. 3581, the Campaign Reform and Election Integrity Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 82: passage of H.R. 34, the Illegal Foreign Contributions Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 83: passage of H.R. 2608, the Paycheck Protection Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 84: passage of H.R. 3582, the Campaign Reporting and Disclosure Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 85: providing for consideration of H.R. 3579, the FY 98 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"No" on rollcall number 86: motion on ordering the House to proceed in secret session.

"No" on rollcall number 87: a motion to recommit H.R. 3579 with instructions.

"Aye" on rollcall number 88: final passage of H.R. 3579, the FY 98 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

"Aye" on rollcall number 90: Providing for consideration of H.R. 2400, BESTEA.

"Aye" on rollcall number 91: Providing for an adjournment of the two Houses.

I ask that this be recorded in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

COMPREHENSIVE COAL ACT
REFORM ACT (H.R. 2231)

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my name as a cosponsor of the Comprehensive Coal Reform Act Reform Act (H.R. 2231), a bipartisan bill introduced by Representative DEBORAH PRYCE (R-OH) on July 27, 1997.

This bill seeks to address certain inequities created by the reachback tax provisions of the Coal Industry Health Benefit Act of 1992 (the Coal Act) while protecting the health benefits of retired mine workers. Under the Coal Act, former employers of retired coal miners are required to pay assessments to a Combined Fund to finance retiree benefits. I believe it is appropriate for former employers to bear this financial responsibility. However, in some cases, the reachback tax is applied unfairly, requiring employers with limited liability to pay large assessments while employers with significant liability pay a lower assessment.

H.R. 2231 attempts to correct these inequities while ensuring that the Combined Fund has adequate resources to pay retiree benefits. The language of H.R. 2231 may or may not be the perfect means to achieve these goals. However, I believe that the bill represents an honest attempt to reach a compromise on this important issue.

THE MEDICAID CHILD ELIGIBILITY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Medicaid Child Eligibility Improvement Act of 1998, to help more children obtain the health care they need through Medicaid. There are currently three million children in our nation who are eligible for Medicaid but are not receiving the care they need because they are not enrolled in the program.

This legislation would allow public schools, child care resource and referral centers, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) workers, and child support agencies to make the preliminary decision that a child is eligible to enroll in Medicaid so that they can receive coverage while waiting for a full Medicaid eligibility determination. Schools and these other agencies are on the front lines of caring for children and can help to educate their families and enroll them in Medicaid.

Under the Balanced Budget Act enacted last year, States received a new option under Medicaid to grant "presumptive eligibility" to certain children on a temporary basis as their